Act 1955, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Notification G.S.R. No. 808(E), dated the 25th October, 1985, publishing the Paraffin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation) Amendment Order, 1985.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—1539/85.]

Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1985

संचार मन्त्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम निवास मिर्धा) : सभापति महोदय, आप की आज्ञा से मैं भारतीय तार अधिनियम, 1885 की धारा 7 की उपधारा (5) के अधीन भारतीय तार (तीसरा संशोधन) नियम, 1985 को प्रकाशित करने वाली संचार मंत्रालय (दूरसंचार विभाग) की अधिसूचना सा०का०नि० सं० 982, दिनांक 19 अक्तूबर, 1985 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूं। [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1539/85.]

I. Report and certificate Accounts (1984-85) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi and related papres.

II. Central Wakf Council (Amendment) Rules, 1985.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table--

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Certified Accounts of the Central Wakf Council New Delhi for the year 1984-85, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Council.

[Placed in Library. *See* No LT-154/85 for (1) and (ii)].

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) Notification G.S.R. No. 917, dated the 5th October, 1985, publishing the Central Wakf Council (Amendment) Rules, 1985 under sub-section (3) of section 8D of the Wakf Act, 1954 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1540/85]

Notification of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Sir on behalf of Shri Janardhan Poojari, I beg to lay on the Table under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. No. 864(E), dated the 22nd November, 1985 extending the time limit for complete exemption from basic and additional duty of customs for denatured alcohol up to 31st March, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1521/85].

Reports and Accounts (1982-83) of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Bombay and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTAL OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act 1956:-

(i) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1982-83 together with the Auditors' Report

on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Corporation.

II. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at I (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1494/85 f.r (i) and (ii)]

A matter of Urgent Public Importance Calling Attention to immediate need to pay remunerative prices to sugarcane growers for their produce in view of fall in production of sugar

MR. CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention. Shri Kalpnath Rai.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, आप की आज्ञा से मैं देश में चीनी के उत्पादन में गिरावट को ध्यान में रखते हुए मुझा उत्पादकों को उन की उपज के लिये लाभकारी मूल्य प्रदान किये जाने की तत्काल आवश्यकता तथा इस विषय में सरकार द्वारा की गयी कार्यवाही की ओर खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूं।

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): Sir, In the first instance, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Members of this House for providing this opportunity to discuss this important subject as well as to share Government's thinking and clarify its actions in the matter of ensuring remunerative prices to the sugarcane growers and for reversing the downward trend in sugar production which had been somewhat slugglish during the last two years.

The Central Government fixes the statutory minimum prices of sugarcane payable by vacuum pan sugar factories. The sugar industry, as Hon'ble Members are aware, utilises a little over 1/3rd of the total cane crop, while the rest of it goes mostly for use in the unorganised sectors. While fixing the statutory minimum prices of sugarcane, the cost of production of sugarcane, the return to the grower from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities, the recovery of sugar from sugarcane apart from other factors are taken into consideration. The crux of the policy followed by the Central Government lies in strinking a harmonious balance between the interests of growers of sugarcane producers of sugar and its consumers. It is considered that a further increase in the statutory minimum price would necessitate a further upward revision of the levy sugar price, which would be against the interests of the whole population including the vulnerable sections.

The prices fixed by the Central Government are only floor prices below which no producer of sugar can pay. They primarily safeguard growers from exploitation in a year of glut in sugarcane production.

For the sugar season 1985-86 the statutory minimum price has been fixed at Rs. 16.50 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent. This marks an increase of Rs. 2.50 per quintal over the minimum price fixed for the last season. I am confident that the Hon'ble Members will appreciate the fact that this was the price recommended by the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices, the expert body on agricultural costs and prices. Apart from this, Government have also announced the statutory minimum price for the season 1986-87 as Rs. 17 per quintal in order to enthuse the farmers to grow more sugarcane and have thus met a longstanding demand of the agriculturists as well as some of the Hon'ble Members to announce sugarcane prices in advance of commencement of the planting season. This substantial increase in the statutory minimum price of